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## 2020 Year in Review

This year was unprecedented on many levels, namely due to the novel coronavirus outbreak, which prompted business and school closures across the state in March.

But 2020 also saw communities coming together to help support one another, from school administrators and teachers holding special events for graduating seniors, a vigil organized after the death of George Floyd this spring and creative decorations to name a few initiatives.

For this special "Year in Review" edition of the Belchertown Sentinel, our editorial staff compiled an overview look at the top news stories published this year.

### January

At the start of the calendar year, 2020 ushered in grant funding for projects such as the \$1 million grant for rebuilding the infrastructure at Sportshaven Mobile Home Park was awarded to the town on Jan. 2.

The funds from the state Department of Housing and Community Development will be used to improve the water and septic systems at the park, where residents of about 45 manufactured homes have been dealing with substandard conditions for decades. The park is located at 370 Mill Valley Road.

"After 25 years, we're hoping this is the final push," said Town Administrator Gary Brougham.

Sportshaven was established as a campground in the 1970s and gradually became an unlicensed mobile home park. Poor maintenance, nonpayment of lot rental fees and bankruptcy followed in the 1990s. Its listed owner is Aquarius Water Co., of Hinsdale.

The Belchertown Cultural Alliance received funding of \$10,000 which will be used to analyze and undertake designs, planning and preliminary costs for designs for a new makerspace area at the former Belchertown State School, specifically the 6 Berkshire Ave building.



Katherine Anderson (left), President of the Belchertown State School Friends Association, Inc., and Friends member Courtney Keating stand amidst a display of valentines on the front steps of the former state school administrative building.

In August of 2019, Cultural Alliance members April Jasak-Bangs and Sarah Maroney spoke with Selectboard members about the goals of the newly established, nonprofit organization. It will bring together strong participants from the Cultural Council, Historical Society, the Belchertown Public Schools, the Friends of the Belchertown State School, and area businesses, to help with revitalization efforts.

A main goal for the group includes the creation of an artist workshop area within the 6 Berkshire Ave.

The doors of the Clapp Memorial Library were open and the children's activity room got a paint job from local artist Teresa Fischer.

During the course of the ren-

See YEAR IN REVIEW, page 2 •



Officer Ed Oey received a shadow box of a uniform and photos for his retirement from the Belchertown Police Department on April 30.



Christ Community Church hosted a drive through lights and live nativity event last weekend.

### Christ Community Church hosts light display

MELINA BOURDEAU  
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – In honor of the holiday season, the Christ Community Church congregation hosted its first light and live nativity display on Saturday.

One member of the congregation, Joanna Mull, said the church hopes to continue to host the event annually.

Mull said while the church doesn't typically host events in the winter, the pandemic inspired them to create a holiday themed

event.

The drive through event featured light displays of various themes on Christmas trees, a live nativity and caroling.

"We want to continue this next year as well," Mull said. "This is literally a brightening community event. We really wanted to do something free and easy for people."

One submission to the light and tree display at Christ Community Church last weekend was the "bare bear" tree.



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ovations and improvements to the library's lower level, Director Sheila McCormick and Head of Youth Services Jennifer Whitehead said it became evident with the upgrades that two central pillars within the activity room would also need a facelift.

Fischer said that she jumped at the opportunity to create a new permanent fixture within the library and to give back to an institution that has been both vital to the community and to her family throughout the years.

"I've spent a lot of time in this room previously with my daughter for programs when she was growing up. It's fun to think about contributing back to what I and my family have used frequently before. It's my way of helping to pass on a tradition that someone else started," said Fischer.

While students were still in school in person, the annual Belchertown Project Runway event challenged students to construct a garment from materials of the designer's choice inspired by the zodiac symbol they were assigned. Decorations could include paint, marker, dye, stencils, beads, sequins, rhinestones and other materials.

For centuries, people have looked to the stars for wonder and inspiration, and the student fashion designers at Belchertown High School did just that.

Seventh Hampden District Representative and House Chairman of Policy and Steering Thomas M. Petrolati announced he would not seek re-election to the role in 2020.

Petrolati, 62, was first elected in 1987. During his more than three decades in public office the long-time Hampden County Democrat has worked tirelessly on issues impacting the lives of the people in his district.



(From left to right) Mia, Chase, Matt and Al Benoit went fishing together on June 21 as part of the first Pine Valley Plantation fishing derby.

One of Petrolati's primary goals while in office was to support economic development in Western Massachusetts. To that end, he worked with a group of local lawmakers to facilitate the transfer of a 5.4 -acre parcel of land in Belchertown from state to local control. The property, once the site of the historic Belchertown State School, laid dormant for numerous years and now serves as the home of the Belchertown Police Station, the Belchertown Senior Center, Christopher Heights Assisted Living Facility, and Easthampton Savings Bank, with further economic development opportunities on the horizon.

Shortly after, Ludlow School Committee member Jake Oliveira announced he would be running to fill the position.

Each year around Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 historic sites throughout the country are celebrated with tangible, visible expressions of love that

often times show that the buildings are worth saving for future preservation.

This year marked the first annual Heart Bomb event, hosted by the Belchertown State School Friends Association Inc., saw nearly 100 valentines cards and posters crafted by participants from far and wide and sent to the association to be featured on display on the front steps of the administrative building in time for Valentine's Day. Heart Bombs are love letters written specifically to historic places.

“The cool part about the whole process was having received so many valentines from people from all over,” said Katherine Anderson, president of the Belchertown State School Friends Association Inc. Anderson said that the valentines showcased important connections that the state school had created between people, both those still living within Belchertown and those who now live away from the area.



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## March

In the beginning of the month, Ludlow School Committee member James “Chip” Harrington formally announced his candidacy for the Seventh Hampden District state representative seat at the Ludlow Mills complex, surrounded by family and supporters.

On what was the last in-school event before the pandemic, the East Meadow School celebrated Dr. Seuss. Students at East Meadow School in Granby recently celebrated reading and the 116th birthday of the beloved author of children’s books with the Read Across America program.

Shortly after, on March 15, Gov. Charlie Baker announced a three-week shut down of schools across the state.

Facing the challenge of feeding children in the Belchertown School District, Food Service Director Kelly Slattery created a drive-through food distribution program that would allow for social distancing. Students received one free lunch and breakfast during the week.

Only a couple of weeks later, the Belchertown Selectboard announced a state of emergency due to COVID-19.

The Belchertown Selectboard declared the town took the action “proactively and not in response to any confirmed or presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the community,” according to a press release.

“This declaration will allow town officials to more efficiently respond to emergency situations, deficit spending if necessary and file for reimbursement if state or federal funds become available,” according to the letter.

The governor also issued an emergency order requiring all businesses and organizations that do not provide “COVID-19 Essential Services” to close their physical workplaces and facilities to workers, customers and the public.

By the end of March, the first cases of COVID-19 occurred in Belchertown with three confirmed cases as of Monday, March 30, and eight people quarantined.

Baker then extended school closure through May.



For the second weekend in a row in June, a group of people have been standing at the corners at Main Street and Maple Street to show support of the Black Lives Matter movement.



Selectboard member Brenda Aldrich stepped down from her position on the Belchertown Selectboard earlier this year after almost a decade of serving on the board.

## April

In the face of the global pandemic overwhelming the health care system, people throughout the area got creative and began to adjust.

For example, the schools began to shift to education enrichment to remote learning. School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst attributed the schools’ ability to do remote learning with the rapid response from the IT department.

“They have been working non-stop,” she said.

One event, which became a trend throughout the year, was

a car parade for the seniors at Christopher Heights.

With an act as simple as driving cars down the road while practicing social distancing, a group of volunteers held a car parade for the residents at the Christopher Heights assisted living facility as well.

A line of about 20 cars – some decorated with posters, others decorated with music or wearing funny hats – drove by Christopher Heights to greet the residents there

in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteers Jennifer Whitehead, Trista Hevey and Erica Rose organized the event after seeing posts on social media about helping elders while maintaining social distancing.

People continued to celebrate milestones, albeit in new ways.

In another celebration, Police Officer Ed Oey retired after working his last day shift on Thursday, April 30, and was met outside of



Town officials sat at the front of the audience during the July 25 Annual Town Meeting, which was held outside under a massive tent.

See **REVIEW**, page 4 •



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The first Bomber Crash in the town of Granby which occurred on Sept. 17, 1944, killing seven people.

Rather than having students get their diploma, Belchertown High School graduates stood and turned their tassels at graduation.

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**REVIEW** • from page 3

Many events, including holidays “went virtual” to avoid crowds and keep people safe at home.

This year, with the help of Belchertown Community Television, the Memorial Day services were recorded in advance and played both on the television channel as well as online.

Granby High School staff held a reverse parade where teachers waved and greeted their students in the parking lot of the school while the students and families drove through.

Working with the town’s police and fire department, the reverse parade allowed for people to drive slowly, stop their vehicle and arrive at their leisure.

Granby Junior Senior High School Principal Stephen Sullivan said the teachers came up with the idea and it only made sense to have the parade in conjunction with the senior class’ originally scheduled last day of school.

“We closed on March 13 and we haven’t seen each other face to face like this since then,” Sullivan said. “We were thinking about doing a parade, but after speaking with local law enforcement and considering the fact we couldn’t get to everyone, we decided to do a reverse parade.”

**June**

Coming up with another creative way to get people together from a distance, the Pine Valley Plantation Mobile Home Park hosted its first fishing derby in the three ponds on the property.

Treasurer and Activities Director for the mobile home park, Barbara Kelleher, said the event was planned to allow families to see each other during the pandemic.

School Committee Chair Gutekenst said the schools made their best effort to give the class of 2020 a proper send off, despite its unconventional end.

“We did parades and the diploma presentation with photos for the families because that was something the seniors said was important to them,” she said. “It’s really a testament to the educators doing things for the children.”

Granby High School held its graduation outside in the parking lot of the school, inviting families to attend in their vehicles and listen to the ceremony via radio.

The high school seniors weren’t the only ones departing from Granby Public School District either. Effective June 30, Superintendent Sheryl Stanton left her position to become the superintendent of Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont

Regional School District in Buckland.

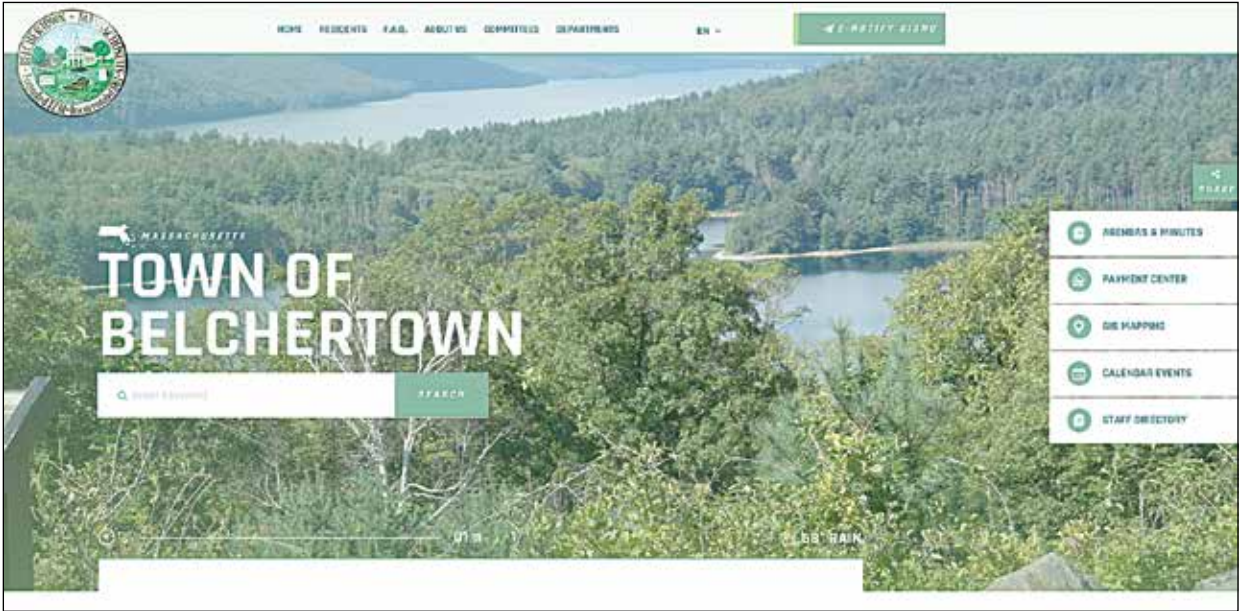
In her letter, Stanton said retiring Pupil Services Director, Carol Hepworth, has postponed her retirement to serve as interim superintendent.

In addition to graduation events including a reverse parade, a diploma presentation and an outdoor socially-distanced graduation for students, June marked another historic moment in 2020.

Following the murder of George Floyd, the Belchertown Selectboard and School Committee issued statements on racism and police brutality.

“We share the belief that racism must be actively opposed to be eradicated. It is not enough, as many white people assume, to simply not hold obviously racist beliefs,” read the Selectboard’s statement. “Belchertown - its leaders, educators, and public servants - do not in any way, condone the actions of the Minneapolis Police Department and others across the nation where incidents have occurred. We will aggressively work to identify and eliminate racism and biases in any form within our community and its institutions.”

This also marked the creation of the Belchertown Justice Collaborative – a group of teens and young adults working to raise awareness about social justice. The group held its first



Belchertown’s website redesign was recently launched with new features such as e-notify feature, a calendar and more to come.

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event, a vigil, on the Belchertown Common in June.

At its Annual Town Meeting Belchertown voters had access to its first hybrid indoor/outdoor meeting where voters reviewed 30 articles on the warrant.

Following the local election, Jim Barry joined the Belchertown Selectboard, replacing Brenda Aldrich who stepped down after almost a decade of serving on the board. Selectboard member Gail Gramarossa took over as chair of the board.

Gramarossa remarked on the town's ability to switch gears in the pandemic.

“People were able to pivot and maintain the services and ways to do things in a safe way,” Gramarossa said, listing examples such as a drop box that was put outside of Town Hall or curbside pick up at the Clapp Memorial Library. “All of the town departments stepped up and got creative about how to do things in different ways.”

## July

As the state began to go into phased reopening part three, the annual Quaboag Valley Relay for Life also went virtual at Belchertown High School. Members of the Event Leadership Team live streamed some of the traditional relay events such as the opening ceremony and survivor lap.

In an hour-long ceremony outside on the football field at Belchertown High School, Belchertown High School graduates from the class of 2020 were able to close out an unprecedented final year of school.

Rather than receiving their diploma at graduation, students and families received the diploma during a two-day event. At the ceremony, each student stood and moved their tassel from the right to the left side of their caps.

Granby held its Annual Town Meeting outside under a tent at Granby Jr./Sr. High School.

The 82-minute affair was largely uneventful with the exception of an interesting conversation regarding a lawnmower.

Article 13 called for the town to allot \$115,000 towards the purchase of an air conditioned mower for the Public Buildings Department. The Finance Committee recommended that the item be postponed indefinitely. The vast majority of those in attendance were in favor of purchasing the new mower.

## August

While the event wasn't a one day festival of trucks on the Belchertown Common, the Belchertown Cultural Council held a drive-through style event with a single food truck multiple times throughout the summer.

The events included online entertainment to promote people to leave the common to watch from the comfort of their homes

as well as a coordinated traffic flow and ordering system to adhere to safety guidelines.

A historic moment in Granby was also commemorated virtually.

On the 75th anniversary of the Victory over Japan also known as Victory in the Pacific on Saturday, Aug. 15, there was a small ceremony in Granby.

"The world woke to a new peace after it was announced Japan had withdrawn and thus ending World War II," wrote piper Todd Carpenter. "Bagpipers around the world were asked to pipe one tune at sunrise. The tune's name was 'When the Battle's O'er.'"

There was a local connection as well – a plane crash which killed seven people.

At the location of the first Bomber Crash in the town of Granby, which occurred on Sept.

17, 1944, Carpenter played the song.

While the doors of the Town Hall remain closed to the public, Belchertown's website redesign is helping people to access resources online.

Ironically, IT Director, Kevin Hannon said COVID-19 delayed the website's relaunch, which was originally scheduled for March.

"It slowed a bit because we got so busy within the IT department," Hannon said. "But some of things took time to do. We had meetings and training on how to use the software. The Selectboard made it a priority and that pushed it over the edge."

"On the back end there are some changes that should make it easier to town staff to keep information current," Hannon said.

See **REVIEW**, page 9 •



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Yes, Virginia. There is a Santa Claus!

No one could have realized it back in 1897, but that's when the New York Sun published what was to become an iconic part of local journalism history. The Sun printed what is now the most widely read letter to a newspaper. It was sent by an 8-year-old New York City girl named Virginia O'Hanlon. The response to her letter by editorial writer Francis Pharcellus Church is a message of love, magic and hope. Considering this past year, we imagine many readers could use a generous serving of that next to a plate of Christmas cookies. So, here is the full text of that historic letter:

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old.  
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.  
Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."  
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.  
Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The

eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.  
Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.  
No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10 thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



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### Theodore Andrew Bachand

June 13, 2020

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**Grandparents:** Andrew and Diane Inglot, Belchertown  
 Irene and the late John Bachand Sr., Belchertown

### Addison Glenna Brownell

June 5, 2020

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**Grandparents:** Mark and Chris Brownell, Belchertown  
 Blayne and Carrie Hartman, Solana Beach, CA  
 Sheri Hartman, Oklahoma City, OK

### Dean Laveck

November 12, 2020

**Parents:** Mary and Joshua Laveck, Belchertown  
**Grandparents:** Kim and Martha Wells, Ware

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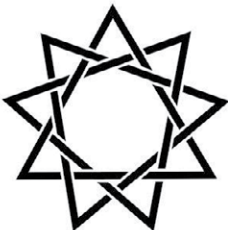
  
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April 14, 2020

**Parents:** Vanessa and Todd Butynski, Belchertown

**Grandparents:** Jane and Paul Butynski, Greenfield  
Doreen and Bill Patry, Bethlehem, NY



**Mia Abigail Belanger**

October 24, 2020

**Parents:** Kyle and Jennifer Belanger, Belchertown

**Grandparents:** Nancy and William Barnes, Belchertown  
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Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas

## Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN – This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, Dec. 24 to Wednesday, Dec. 30.

### Thursday, Dec. 24

- 8 a.m. – Selectboard Dec. 21
- 10 a.m. – Planning Board Dec. 22
- 12 p.m. – COVID-19 Task Force Dec. 17
- 1:30 p.m. – Council on Aging Dec. 17
- 3 p.m. – Hope United Lessons and Carols 2020
- 5 p.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020
- 8 p.m. – Selectboard Dec. 21
- 10 p.m. – Planning Board Dec. 22

### Friday, Dec. 25

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Belchertown Handbell Choir
- 9:30 a.m. – Christmas Cantata
- 11 a.m. – Hope United Lessons and Carols 2015
- 1 p.m. – Hope United Lessons and Carols 2018
- 2:30 p.m. – Carols on the Common 2013, 2017, 2018
- 4 p.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Lessons and Carols 2020

### Saturday, Dec. 26

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe N is for Nighttime Noises
- 4:30 a.m. – Curious Giraffe O is for Overcoming Obstacles
- 7 p.m. – Christmas Lights of Belchertown 2020
- 7:30 p.m. – COVID-19 Task Force Dec. 17
- 9 p.m. – Council on Aging Dec. 17

### Sunday, Dec. 27

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p.m. – Carols on the Common 2013, 2017, 2018

### Monday, Dec. 28

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

### Tuesday, Dec. 29

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe – P is for Puppet Parade
- 4:30 p.m. – Curious Giraffe – Q is for Quest of Questions

### Wednesday, Dec. 30

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 1 p.m. – Meditation with Lori - Senses
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Conservation Comm. – Open Spaces-Channel 192



The Belchertown Selectboard recently approved a draft easement, the next step in the process of constructing a new water tower on Park St.

REVIEW • from page 5

## September

While the first day of school might be opening a laptop versus getting on the bus, the Belchertown School District started school on Sept. 10.

The School Committee approved a phased hybrid learning model for reopening school for students in pre-kindergarten through grade eight, with all high school students being taught remotely until at least Oct. 30.

The first two weeks of school were fully remote for every grade in the district.

September also marked the opening of the Belchertown Day School at the former Belchertown State school property, after a three-year wait.

The new building includes two pre-kindergarten rooms, two toddler rooms and one school-age room, which will also function as a multi-purpose gymnasium. Each classroom will have its own bathroom facility and a door that leads directly to an outside playground area.

## October

In Belchertown, the COVID-19 Task Force, comprised of two members of the Selectboard, School Committee and Board of Health held its first meeting to discuss topics including enforcing Gov. Charlie Baker's mask mandate requiring people to wear a mask in public when they are unable to socially distance.

The Energy and Sustainability Committee and the Communications Committee were each created by the Selectboard.

Quabbin Health Director Judy Metcalf



Ray and Cindy Janke replace flags on the Belchertown Common in honor of Veterans Day. Ray Janke is the town's retired veterans' agent.

announced she would be retiring in the spring of 2021, and advised the health district about the process to find her replacement, which will begin in January 2021.

Granby Selectboard hired Robert Brzezinski as an interim fire chief.

The Select board discussed finding an interim fire chief following the termination of Granby Fire Chief John Mitchell Jr. on July 23. During executive sessions, the board discussed Mitchell's employment with the town and determined in a July 22 executive session to terminate him, effective the next day.

In an effort to hold alternative Halloween events to trick-or-treating, there was the Belchertown thrill tour, a decoration con-

tested hosted by the Belchertown Cultural Council, a pumpkin patch event put on the Chestnut Hill Community School Parent Teacher Organization, a graveyard tour by the Chesterton Historical Society and a reverse Lions Club Halloween parade.

## November

Although the country was divided about results of the national election until December, voters in Chesterton and Granby supported President-elect Joe Biden.

See REVIEW, page 11 •



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# TOP 10 NEWS STORIES of 2020

**MELINA BOURDEAU**  
Staff writer

From a national election to a global pandemic, 2020 will certainly be a historic year. Among the many events that happened this year, these are the top 10 stories from the Sentinels editions.

## Belchertown declares state of emergency (March 23, 2020)

Belchertown announced a state of emergency due to COVID-19 last week. The Belchertown selectboard declared the town took the action “proactively and not in response to any confirmed or presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the community,” according to a press release. “This declaration will allow town officials to more efficiently respond to emergency situations, deficit spending if necessary and file for reimbursement if state or federal funds become available,” according to the letter.

## Belchertown, Granby favor Biden (Nov. 9, 2020)

Although the country may be divided about results of the election as over one week has passed since the national election, voters in Belchertown and Granby have spoken.

There were a total of 9,657 votes cast in the national election of the 11,452 registered voters in Belchertown.

Voters in Granby certainly showed up to voice their opinion with a total of 82% turnout in the national election with 3,945 of 4,855 voters who cast their ballot.

## Rep. Thomas Petrolati announces retirement from public office (Feb. 18, 2020)

Seventh Hampden District Representative and House Chairman of Policy and Steering Thomas M. Petrolati has announced that he will not seek re-election to the role in 2020.

Petrolati, 62, was first elected in 1987. During his more than three decades in public office the long-time Hampden County Democrat has worked tirelessly on issues impacting the lives of the people in his district.

One of Petrolati’s primary goals while in office was to support economic development in Western Massachusetts. To that end, he worked with a group of local lawmakers to facilitate the transfer of a 5.4-acre parcel of land in Belchertown from state to local control.

## Over 150 attend vigil (July 2, 2020)

With 15 members and counting the Belchertown Justice Collaborative hosted a vigil for George Floyd on the common last week.



Seating was available from a distance with aggressive air exchange inside the Belchertown High School gym on Saturday.

ARCHIVE PHOTOS



Seventh Hampden District Rep. Thomas Petrolati (D-Ludlow)

The group composed of high school and college students spoke about their own experiences with racism in Belchertown, called on white allies to take action and honored the lives lost to police brutality in the United States.

## An Annual Town Meeting unlike any other (July 2, 2020)

The Special and Annual Town Meetings were held in the Belchertown High School gym and on the tennis courts on Saturday and with “tremendous effort” the two-hour event went “nearly perfect” according to

Town Administrator Gary Brougham.

Brougham explained the meeting normally occurs on the second Monday in May and “historically the annual operating budget is approved for the upcoming fiscal year which starts on July 1. We also take care of other necessary business – the warrant might have 45 to 50 articles on it.”

This year there were 30 articles on the annual meeting warrant to reduce the time of the meeting, according to Brougham.

## Mower subject of debate at Granby ATM (July 28, 2020)

An old tradition took on new form on July 25, as Granby’s 2020 Annual Town Meeting occurred outside in front of Granby Junior/Senior High School. The 82-minute affair was largely uneventful with the exception of an interesting conversation regarding a lawnmower.

Article 13 called for the town to allot \$115,000 towards the purchase of an air conditioned mower for the Public Buildings Department. The Finance Committee recommended that the item be postponed indefinitely.

## Granby fire chief on unpaid administrative leave (June 11, 2020)

As of June 1, Granby Fire Chief John Mitchell Jr. was placed on unpaid administrative leave from the Fire Department for 30 days, according to Town Administrator Christopher Martin.

Since June 1, Deputy Chief Bruce Carpenter has been working as acting chief of the department.

The Selectboard sent a letter of notification to Mitchell dated June 1, notifying him of “the town’s intention not to renew (his) contract as of July 1, 2021,” according to the letter.

## Two BOS members call for moderator’s resignation (Oct. 29, 2020)

The Belchertown Selectboard addressed a social media post made by an elected official last week with varied scrutiny, including two members calling for the official’s resignation in its meeting on Monday night.

Town Moderator Amanda Halperin, who was elected to the position earlier this year, made a Facebook post that Selectboard members considered inappropriate, which castigated police for not enforcing the state’s mask mandate, and indicated the lack of enforcement might be because they are supporters of President Donald Trump.

## Granby Superintendent to leave district (June 18, 2020)

The high school seniors aren’t the only ones who are departing from Granby Public School District. Effective June 30, Superintendent Sheryl

See TOP 10, page 12 •



## Merry Christmas from Stadler ACE Hardware

T’was the night before Christmas when all through the store the employees were scurrying, to complete one project more.

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REVIEW • from page 9

There were a total of 9,657 votes cast in the national election of the 11,452 registered voters in Belchertown.

With a large turnout of about 84%, according to Belchertown Town Clerk Colleen Foothill-Berte said this year marked a record in mail in ballots. “This is the most mail in ballots I’ve ever seen,” she said. “In the last two national elections, Belchertown voters showed up with an 80% turn out, so this was a bigger turn out.”

Voters in Granby certainly showed up to voice their opinion with a total of 82% turnout in the national election with 3,945 of 4,855 voters who cast their ballot.

In 2016, 1,447 voters voted early, 31% of Granby’s registered voters, according to the 2016 Annual town report.

After 27 years of serving as the full-time Belchertown Fire Chief Edward Bock announced his retirement in a letter to the Belchertown Belchertown.

With a pending retirement of May 20, 2021, the Selectboard wasted no time in discussing the timeline for Bock’s replacement.

A single neutral arbitrator has found that the town of Granby did not have just cause to suspend Fire Chief John Mitchell for 30 days in May.

The town was ordered to immediately “rescind the suspension, remove all references to the suspension from the Mitchell’s file and make him whole for all wages and benefits lost as a result of the suspension, less any interim income he would not have received but for the suspension,” according to the decision written by Arbitrator Mary Ellen Shea.

December

Rather than have a single event, the Belchertown Cultural Council created a month-long series of events for winter light night, including a countdown of the lights on the memory tree on the Belchertown Common.

Teaming up with other local groups including the Belchertown Recreation Department, Police Department and the Quabbin Art Association, the events included a gingerbread house competition, a toy drive, a free art event and others.

During December, towns also saw an increase of COVID-19 cases with Granby receiving a ‘red’ designation based on case numbers and positivity rate determined by the state.

As of Dec. 12, the case numbers hit an all-time high in Belchertown since the pandemic hit in town with a total of 46 cases. Previously the highest cases in a week was 21 in April.

There have been 278 cases to date and eight deaths due to COVID-19.

Quabbin Health Director Judy Metcalf spoke about the “surge.”

“We are just seeing the Thanksgiving cases now, I saw the first Thanksgiving-related cluster on Friday,” Metcalf told the Board of Health. “On Saturday and Sunday things slowed down. That will go for another week or two until after Christmas... We expect a surge upon a surge until mid-January.”

The COVID-19 Task Force has launched a hotline, allowing residents to report large residential gatherings. The goal of the hotline is to educate the public about the ongoing risks of gathering inside during the winter during the pandemic.

As part of an ongoing discussion around enforcing the state mandates to limit the number of people gathering inside and as Quabbin Health District reported the highest COVID-19 cases in a week since the pandemic began, the COVID-19 Task Force agreed it was an appropriate time to launch the hotline.

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Christmas Services

RSVP needed for Christmas masses at St. Francis of Assisi

BELCHERTOWN –Because of safety concerns and restrictions on gatherings by the state, attendance at mass is limited to 200.

As a result, Christmas Masses at St. Francis of Assisi this year will be by reservation only to ensure that the church stay below the limit, that social distancing is maintained and that everyone is safe. Anyone without a reservation will not be invited in.

Anyone who does not feel well or who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to age or underlying conditions are encouraged to stay home.

Christmas Mass will be televised on BCTV 191 at 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Day and online.

Attendance at all Christmas masses must be reserved in advance. Only those with reservations will be allowed in.

For those who do attend, masks and social distancing are required. Cleaning and sanitizing protocols are in place. Enter by the front doors. Ushers will be available to direct the flow of entering and exiting the church to insure social distancing.

The parish office will be taking reservations for the Christmas masses beginning Dec. 1. Use only the front entrance and anyone not on the list will be not be allowed in.

Please arrive no later than 15 minutes – earlier, if possible - before the mass time, as social distancing, seating and list checking will take time.

Masses for Christmas Eve (by reservation only): Thursday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25 (by reservation only): mass at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family: the weekend of Dec. 26 to 27, masses are the weekend schedule

Family Blessings will be offered at the end of mass.

New Year’s-Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God: Thursday, Dec. 31 mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, Jan. 1 at 8 and 12:10 a.m.

The parish office will be taking reservations for the Christmas Masses beginning Dec. 1.

Please call 413-323-6272 ext. 1.

Christmas Eve candlelight service

BELCHERTOWN – Join the members of Christ Community Church congregation for a time of worship and music focusing on the true meaning of Christmas and the joy that this season brings.

The Christmas Eve service will take place at 5:30 p.m. both live-streamed, on the Christ Community Church Facebook page, and in person at the church. All social distancing and mask-wearing regulations will be in place.

Attendees are asked to sign up to attend at the church’s website: www.gracefortheway.org, in order to ensure there’s enough space in the building to follow all social distancing guidelines. Christ Community Church is located at 1255 Federal St. in Belchertown.

For more information contact the church office at 413-253-0292 or office@gracefortheway.org.

PHOTOS BY MELINA BOURDEAU



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SKINLESS & SHANKLESS  
**WHOLE SMOKED HAM**..... \$1<sup>99</sup><sub>lb</sub>

USDA INSP. FROZEN  
**1/2 SPIRAL HAM** ..... \$1<sup>49</sup><sub>lb</sub>

USDA INSP. FROZEN SMOKED BUTT OR SHANK  
**1/2 HAM PORTIONS**..... 79<sup>c</sup><sub>lb</sub>

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN  
**BEEF RIB EYE for STANDING RIB ROAST**  
CUT FREE \$7<sup>99</sup><sub>lb</sub> WHOLE OR HALF

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS  
**BEEF TENDERLOIN** \$6<sup>98</sup><sub>lb</sub>

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN  
**BEEF STRIPLOIN STEAKS** \$4<sup>79</sup><sub>lb</sub>

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS  
**BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST** \$3<sup>99</sup><sub>lb</sub>

USDA INSP. FROZEN  
IMPORTED NEW ZEALAND  
**FRENCHED LAMB RACKS** .... \$7<sup>99</sup><sub>lb</sub>

USDA INSP. FROZEN  
**CAPON** ..... \$2<sup>49</sup><sub>lb</sub>  
**GOOSE** ..... \$5<sup>99</sup><sub>lb</sub>  
**DUCKS** ..... \$3<sup>99</sup><sub>lb</sub>

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN - PARTY CUT  
**CHICKEN WINGS** 4 LB BAG..... \$7<sup>99</sup>

USDA INSP. FROZEN  
**FULLY COOKED MEATBALLS** 5 LB BAG ..... \$9<sup>99</sup><sub>ea</sub>

INSF. IQF FROZEN  
**RAW PEELED SHRIMP 16/20 COUNT** 2 LB BAG..... \$14<sup>99</sup><sub>ea</sub>

INSF. IQF FROZEN  
**COOKED SHRIMP 31/40 COUNT** 2 LB BAG..... \$14<sup>99</sup><sub>ea</sub>

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Newcomers of the Year

The Belchertown Justice Collaborative

MELINA BOURDEAU  
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – It can be a task to form a new group in a typical year, let alone during a pandemic, but the Belchertown Justice Collaborative not only hosted a vigil honoring Black people who have lost their lives to police brutality, it has also continued its work on behalf of racial justice efforts.

The Belchertown Justice Collaborative, which formed in June after the death of George Floyd did so to “start a long-term conversation about racial justice, accountability and community solidarity in Belchertown,” according to its Facebook page.

The group is comprised of teenagers and young adults intent on making change, beginning in their backyard.

Since its start, the BJC has hosted and co-hosted multiple events throughout town – from the vigil, sponsored by the Belchertown Cultural Alliance to the iShape MA educational campaign, hosting a double-feature drive-in movie with the Belchertown Recreation Department and others.

Belchertown Selectboard Chair Gail Gramarossa said their vigil for George Floyd and Black people who have died due to police brutality was the “highlight” of the summer.

“It’s rarer sometimes when you think about maintaining momentum after one event and continuing that can sometimes be a challenge, but (the BJC) found partners to



The Belchertown Justice Collaborative, a group of teenagers and young adults, are the newcomers of 2020. The group formed in June and has hosted and cohosted several events in town.

collaborate with to keep these issues alive,” Gramarossa said.

She added that is especially impressive to her to see the group lead and organize the vigil in the summer to make sure the experiences of its members were shared.

With a recently awarded grant related to an upcoming project at the former

Belchertown State School property with the Belchertown Justice Collaborative, it appears the BJC will continue its efforts in 2021 as well.

Newsmaker of the Year

Judy Metcalf, Quabbin Health Director

MELINA BOURDEAU  
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – In a year dominated by the global pandemic with information and guidance changing, Quabbin Health District Director Judy Metcalf worked to inform the public about COVID-19, precautions and guidance since the pandemic reached Belchertown in March.

Metcalf said the health district and the Board of Health have always been responsible for tracking communicable diseases, among others.

“We’ve been prepared and have done

our work in the background,” Metcalf said in an interview. “COVID-19 disease surveillance and tracking overtook the department and, without a doubt, has never been at the forefront, so publicly.”

SelectBoard Chair and previous member of the Board of Health, Gail Gramarossa, said in most cases people didn’t know about the Board of Health until “something goes wrong.”

“People don’t typically think about the safety guidelines of septic systems or restaurants, for example,” Gramarossa said. “To me, having resources is critical. With the COVID-19 Task Force, as well as every department in town, Judy has been

a resource providing guidance and clarity around what they’re supposed to do.”

Metcalf has also worked to educate the public about COVID-19 and how to be safer during the pandemic through the creation of signage as well as advisories to residents and committees alike.

Each week, Metcalf has posted COVID-19 data for the Quabbin Health district, which includes Pelham and Ware. From March to December, Metcalf added data from the state, cluster data and created graphics tracking the town’s data over time.

TOP 10P • from page 10

Stanton is leaving her position to become the superintendent of Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional School District in Buckland.

In her letter, Stanton said retiring Pupil Services Director, Carol Hepworth, has postponed her retirement to serve as interim superintendent.

**Fair committee reschedules 163rd Belchertown Fair to 2021 (July 16, 2020)**

Without an official vote, the Belchertown Fair Committee decided to cancel this year’s fair.

Chair of the Belchertown Fair Committee, Mark Nute said he spoke with Quabbin Health District Director Judy Metcalf this was almost a day or so after the Big E had canceled their fair.

“I talked to Judy a little bit, and I said let us know what we can take and do to make things happen if it does,” Nute said. “She said the amusement part of the fair would not happen. The social distancing with the tents and social and kids’ tents weren’t going to happen.”

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# Early Deadlines

for all PUBLIC NOTICES...

to run the week of  
December 21-25, 2020:

- Thursday, Dec. 17 at NOON  
The Register, Sentinel,  
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times,  
Agawam Advertiser News,  
Quaboag Current
- Friday, Dec. 18 at Noon  
Barre Gazette, Country Journal,  
Ware River News  
The Journal Register
- Monday, Dec. 21 at noon  
Town Reminder,  
Chicopee Register and  
The Holyoke Sun

*Happy Holidays!*

*Happy New Year!*

to run the week of  
December 28 -  
January 1, 2021:

- Wednesday, Dec. 23 at noon  
The Register, Sentinel,  
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times,  
Agawam Advertiser News,  
Quaboag Current, Barre Gazette,  
Country Journal, Ware River News  
The Journal Register
- Monday, Dec. 28 at noon  
Town Reminder, Chicopee Register  
and The Holyoke Sun

# GCAM hosts holiday programming

GRANBY – The following are the events and schedule for the holidays from Granby Community Access and Media.

On Channel 15, GCAM will be airing a Yule Log all day Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for residents to put in the background while preparing for their “stay-at-home Christmas” activities.

- Thursday, Dec. 24
- 7 a.m. - Seniors on the Move
  - 8 a.m. - Alivelihood
  - 9 a.m. - In the Garden with Liz
  - 10 a.m. - Healthy Bones & Balance
  - 11 a.m. - Norfolk Knitting School
  - 12 p.m. - Songspeak
  - 1 p.m. - Letters to Santa Recap
  - 4 p.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Service
  - 7 p.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Pageant
  - 7:30 p.m. - Letters to Santa: Night Before Christmas
  - 9 p.m. - MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
  - 10 p.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Service

- Friday, Dec. 25
- 12 a.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Service
  - 6 a.m. - MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
  - 7 a.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Service
  - 9 a.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Pageant
  - 9:30 a.m. - 2019 Granby Music All Grades Concert
  - 11:30 a.m. - Letters to Santa Recap
  - 1:30 p.m. - MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
  - 2 p.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Service
  - 3:30 p.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Pageant
  - 4 p.m. - MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
  - 4:30 p.m. - 2019 Granby Music All Grades Concert
  - 6:30 p.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Service
  - 8:30 p.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Pageant
  - 9 p.m. - MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
  - 9:30 p.m. - Letters to Santa Recap

On Dec. 26, there will be two marathons going on both Channels 12 and 15 reflecting the programming that GCAM aired over 2020. Channel 12 will includes things such as the Class of ‘70-’79 GJSHS Reunion, the East Meadow Teacher Parade, and the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Japan with Todd Carpenter.

On Channel 15, GCAM will be including the various sports games that happened in 2020 along with various talks and events such as the GJSHS Health Fair that happened. GCAM will even feature some of the projects that came out of the GJSHS A/V Production class. GCAM will have times ready to go for Channel 15 on Facebook, Instagram, and its newsletter where residents can sign up on the website at [www.granbymedia.com](http://www.granbymedia.com).

# Holiday offerings at the Granby Library

GRANBY – The following are upcoming holiday events by Granby Public Library.

Kid’s help make New Year’s Eve sparkle at the Granby Library

Between Dec. 29 to 31 pick up a kit to make a firework wand and take home a noisemaker and glow stick necklace. The Granby library has multiple copies of “Happy New Year everywhere” and the night before New Year’s Eve, as for a copy for curbside pick up. Need some movies to watch or other books to read? Ask for a curbside pick up by calling the library ahead during open hours at 467-3320.

Teens, stop by the Granby Library to get your glow on for New Years

Stop by the library lobby Dec. 29 to 31 during library hours Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to pick up a couple of glow stick necklaces. Limit two per teen. Need some movies to watch or books to read? Ask for a curbside pick up by calling the library ahead during open hours at 467-3320.

Family movie night holiday theme DVD binge boxes

A binge box is a box/bag with three DVD’s hand-selected for you by the librarians, a bag of microwave popcorn, an activity and a small gift to brighten your day.

Library staff will ask your child(ren)’s age(s). You can request a personalized box, feel free to ask for books, music.

To request a holiday binge box call the library 467-3320 or email the library at [granbypubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:granbypubliclibrary@gmail.com).

Library staff answer calls and emails on open library days Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Kid - made ornaments to “gift or keep” kits

Stop by for a take and make ornament kit, in the library lobby from Tuesday through Friday from 10:30

a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A little glue added to our kits and you’ll have some homemade holiday ornaments to add a special touch to your tree or a great gift for someone special.

Bagged kits will be created for younger and older youth. It is first come first serve.

Holiday books for sale .50

A selection of “like new” holiday books are on the bottom shelf of our Ornament Kit cart. Each book is .50.

Envelopes are provided – put the book payment in the envelope, then put the envelope in book drop.

Holiday craft bags for Jr/Sr High schoolers

Get crafty! Choose an ornament kit and some winter magic coloring pages at the Granby Library

While supplies last. Stop by the library lobby during library hours from Tuesday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

# Freedom Credit Union to support Pioneer Valley USO with matching donations

## Public encouraged to make online donations through Dec. 31

SPRINGFIELD – Throughout the month of December, Freedom Credit Union will partner with its members and the local community to raise funds to benefit the Pioneer Valley USO. Freedom will match total donations made through Dec. 31 up to \$2,500.

The mission of the USO (United Service Organizations) is to strengthen America’s military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country throughout their service to our country. The Pioneer Valley USO, located at Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee:

- Provides more than 102,000 lbs. of food to over 3,200 individuals annually through the Emergency Food Pantry
  - Supports more than 600 families with holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas annually
  - Sends more than 500 care packages to deployed military men and women around the world
  - Is funded entirely by private donations, sponsorships and grants
  - Supports both Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee and Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield.
- Donations can be made to Freedom’s matching drive online at [bit.ly/393WCzo](http://bit.ly/393WCzo).
- “We wanted to do something to help care for those who sacrifice so much for our freedom,” said President Glenn Welch. “The Pioneer Valley USO was set up in the 1940s to help

local service families in need by serving meals and providing food through a pantry at Westover Air Reserve Base. With all the challenges this year, the organization has experienced a dip in donations, and we’d like to help fix this.”

“During this holiday season, there are about 220,000 American men and women on active duty in 100 countries who will not be home for the holidays,” said Allan Tracy, executive director, Pioneer Valley USO. “We appreciate Freedom’s generosity in soliciting and matching donations to help relieve some of our service members’ stress by helping to ensure their families are cared for.”

For information about the full range of services offered by Freedom Credit Union, visit [freedom.coop](http://freedom.coop).



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POLICE LOGS

Belchertown Police

*Editor’s note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Dec. 9 through Dec. 15. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 280 calls police responded to, there were 25 incidents, two accidents, five arrest/summons and two citations.*

ARRESTS/SUMMONS  
Wednesday, Dec. 9

4:20 p.m. – A 37-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for use of motor vehicle without authority. Officers spoke with a person who loaned their car to a coworker. After some time, the coworker didn’t return the car, which was supposed to be brought back after 20 minutes. At 6:39 p.m. the coworker called the person who said they would be back in an additional 30 minutes. The caller wanted charges pressed.

Friday, Dec. 11

4:31 p.m. – A 44-year-old Belchertown man was issued a summons for an unlawful wiretap. The suspect went to another police department and spoke with an officer with a secretly recorded conversation between themselves and their partner at their home. The suspect recorded the conversation in order to try to incriminating statements from their partner to use in court.

Sunday, Dec. 13

9:17 p.m. – Christy L. Duford, 42, of 112 Balfour Dr. Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol, negligent operation of a

motor vehicle and a marked lanes violation. Dispatch got a call about an erratic vehicle which came into the caller’s lane and almost hit them head on. The driver of the erratic vehicle was travelling southbound and the caller turned around and followed the suspect’s car. An officer got behind the suspect’s car on Chauncey Walker Rd. when they reached the golf course, the suspect stuck the curb almost hit a street lamp. The officer pulled the suspect over and spoke with them, getting a strong odor of alcohol. The suspect said they had two martinis. A sobriety test was given and the suspect was unsteady on their feet. They were placed under arrest. When an inventory of the vehicle was taken, an empty nip was found in car and a full one was found in a purse. There was fresh damage to the vehicle and photos were taken. The suspect was later released on personal reconnaissance to appear in court at a later date.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Thursday, Dec. 10

4:21 pm. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

Friday, Dec. 11

9 a.m. – The school resource officer took a call person about an online incident involving two students. The officer spoke with the party the next morning. The student messaged another student in a chat and they had prior incidents together. The officer spoke with the involved parties who were advised to contact officer if there was another involved incidents.

10:16 a.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

11:12 a.m. – Officers responded to a Chauncey Walker Rd. business with Belchertown Fire and EMTs for a report of a forklift accident. A male party suffered a leg injury. The party exited the forklift to check on the load and he said he

was sure he set the parking break. He was then pinned between forklift and truck. The man was transported with serious injuries. Ludlow Fire Dept. was contacted for mutual aid.

2:57 p.m. – Officers responded to a residence for a report of a medical call. The officer assisted Belchertown fire and paramedics on scene. Mutual aid was contacted and Amherst responded for mutual aid.

3:58 p.m. –The Belchertown K-9 officer responded to Granby to assist Granby Police for a mutual aid K-9 request to tracking from crashed motor vehicle area to locate the driver who was in the woods behind the crash.

4:36 p.m. – Officers took a report from a resident who said they ordered a laptop in the last month which was supposed to be delivered on Dec. 3. The caller said they were told it was delivered on midnight at on Dec. 3 and the last location was out on delivery on truck in Chicopee. They were unable to provide with information about the delivery. The caller was the delivery company was going to contact the driver. The person called the company they purchased the laptop from and was told to file a police report.

7:08 p.m. – Officers spoke with a resident on phone who said earlier that day a delivery company was dropping off a package at their home when they struck the resident’s garage door. The contractor was contacted. The supervisor told the person that they should get an estimate for the repairs and the company would take care of the cost.

Saturday, Dec. 12

1:32 p.m. – Officers spoke with a North Washington St. resident concerning their window being shot by a BB gun. There was several holes in the window sill and BBs found. There are no suspects and no other information at this time.

4:07 p.m. – Officers responded to North Liberty St. residence for an out of control 12-year-old child. There was an argument and the child destroyed different things in the house.

8:49 p.m. – Officers responded for State St. residence for a report of garage door that was smashed in. It appeared someone drove a vehicle into it. The glass windows were completely destroyed and the party said they didn’t received any deliveries recently. The resident said they would be in contact with their landlord to report the incident.

Sunday, Dec. 13

10:19 a.m. – Officers responded to an accident at a storage facility. The vehicle was at the entrance of a storage complex on Harris Way, when the driver exited the vehicle, and failed to put it into park. The vehicle drove forward as the gate opened. The vehicle hit the gate and bent it. There were cracks to the gate and damage to the front end of the vehicle.

10:41 a.m. – An officer dispatched to the intersection Cold Spring Rd and Michael Sears Rd for a report of stop sign that was bent. There were no tire tracks, but the officer noted the street name sign was missing. The sign was able to stand upright, but Belchertown DPW was contacted to secure the sign.

1:52 p.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

4:36 p.m. – Officer dispatched to a Front St. business for a report of an employee that was pushed. There were two parties yelling at each other, while in the doorway and one allegedly pushed another into the door frame. No injuries were reported. The officer spoke with the other parties from their perspective didn’t think they even touched the other party. The matter didn’t meet the threshold of pressing charges.

Monday, Dec. 14

3:06 p.m. – Officers took a report of unemployment fraud.

9:11 p.m. – An officer was running radar when they observed a motor vehicle it drift into the other lane. The officer saw the operator using their cell phone while driving. The officer was going to pull over the operator after noticing they were also travelling faster than the speed limit. The vehicle continued to accelerate to avoid being

pulled over. The officer put on their lights and they turned right on North Liberty St. to go to Three Rivers. The officer lost sight of the motor vehicle and at the intersection at North St. the officer saw the vehicle stop and drive past the underpass. The vehicle continued onto Railroad St. Dispatch contacted Palmer Police Department. Officers checked the area and couldn’t locate the driver.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

1:52 p.m. – Belchertown officers and fire/paramedics responded to a residence for a party who was injured during a past disturbance.

3:03 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on George Hannum. One vehicle was travelling north on George Hannum when the operator slowed for children who were riding bikes. The first operator was struck from behind by a second vehicle. The second vehicle then fled the scene.

3:35 p.m. – Officers took a report of harassment from a resident. The party was advised of the process to obtain an abuse prevention order.

3:52 p.m. – A person came into the station concerned about the welfare of their significant other after they had an argument. Dispatch put out a broadcast for the party. The person wanted them to come home and the partner wasn’t home. Then the next day, one of the officers spoke with customs in Holton, Maine after the significant other crossed boarder into Canada. The party was told they needed to quarantine and they wanted to come back to the US. They were then released.

4:45 p.m. – A North Washington St. resident reported they found several open packages on the side of the road, five were opened and four times were left behind. The residents notified the department and an officer took the items back to the station and contacted the owners. Three of the packages belonged to residents in Belchertown, one belonged to a resident in Hadley and another to a Ludlow resident. Officers tried to make contact with the parties about the packages which didn’t appear to be delivered its proper location. It was unknown if the delivery driver was involved.

11:16 p.m. – An officer took a phone report of stolen bicycle which occurred five days prior. The blue Mongoose fat tire style mountain bike was stolen off the back porch of the residence. The bike was located at the former Belchertown Day School by an officer working a traffic detail. The bicycle was brought back to the station and put into evidence. The owner was advised.

Granby Police

*Editor’s Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 128 calls for the week of Dec. 12 through Dec. 17. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.*

Friday, Dec. 11

3:36 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Chicopee St. The operator lost control of their vehicle and drove off the roadway.

Saturday, Dec. 12

1:23 p.m. – Officers investigated a two-car accident on East State St. Injuries were reported.

Sunday, Dec. 13

2:56 p.m. – Officers investigated a theft from a resident’s garage. The incident is still under investigation.

Tuesday, Dec. 15

5:07 p.m. – Officers took a report of credit card fraud. The incident is still under investigation.

Thursday, Dec. 17

11:22 a.m. – Officers investigate motor vehicle accident on East State St. The operator lost control of their vehicle and drove off the roadway.

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Crow species

4. Partner to flow

7. Male offspring

8. Sedate

10. Orange beverage

12. Pair of small hand drums

13. 12th month of Jewish civil year

14. Former Pirates star Jason

16. Computer company

17. Made angry

19. Beverage container

20. Charlize Theron film “\_\_\_ Flux”

21. Localities

25. Consume

26. Don't know when yet

27. Bed style

29. Make a low,

continuous

30. Wrath

31. Pollinates flowers

32. Association

39. Prejudice

41. Unhealthy

42. Hasidic religious leader

43. Distinctive philosophy

44. Short-term memory

45. In a good way

46. Emperors of Ethiopia

48. Imaginary line

49. Of barium

50. One's sense of self-esteem

51. Man who behaves dishonorably

52. Monetary unit

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Rear of (nautical)

2. He minds the net

3. Ring-shaped objects

4. When you hope to get there

5. Young children

6. Beloved hobbit

8. Pigpen

9. Wish harm upon (Scottish)

14. Scrooge's phrase “\_\_\_ Humbug”

15. One more

18. A ballplayer who only hits

19. Once vital TV part

20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year

22. Advantage

23. Type of tree

24. Luke's mentor \_\_\_-Wan

27. Life stories

28. Vase

29. Tiny

31. Package (abbr.)

32. A photog's tool

33. Wood

34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)

35. Pueblo people of New Mexico

36. Wild goats

37. A way to comply

38. Horatio \_\_\_, British admiral

39. Actress Leslie

40. Sir \_\_\_ Newton

44. Pouch

47. Have already done

# SPORTS

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## Desormier laments on lost season

**TIM PETERSON**  
Sports Correspondent

WORCESTER — The Worcester State University men's basketball team ended the 2019-20 regular season tied for first place with Westfield State in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) standings. With several key players returning this winter, the expectations were extremely high for the Lancers.

Just like the other six MASCAC men's basketball team's, Worcester State will not be playing any games this winter due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"We probably would've been one of the favorites to win our conference title and qualify for the NCAA Division 3 tournament," said Worcester State senior guard Joe Desormier, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Granby High School. "When our season was canceled, it was definitely a bummer, but they did make the right decision with everything that's going on."

The decision to cancel the 2020-21 winter sports season was made by the MASCAC Presidents.

Even before the basketball sea-

son had been called off, everything was a little bit different for Desormier and his teammates.

"Since I've been a student here at Worcester State, I would start playing pick-up basketball games and lifting in September," Desormier said. "We weren't allowed to do those things this year. We also had fewer team-oriented events. All of my classes are virtual this semester."

All of the student-athletes, who had their college seasons canceled because of COVID-19, will be eligible to play one more season.

Desormier, who's majoring in Business Administration, most likely won't be returning to the Lancers basketball team next year.

"I'm going to be graduating next spring and I already have a job offer with the Martin J Clayton Insurance Agency, which is in Holyoke," Desormier said. "My father (Rob) is also in the insurance field and he has taught me a lot about the business. My college basketball career is prob-

ably over."

The President of the Clayton Insurance Agency is Michael Regan, who lives in Granby.

Joe's father is also a member of the Chicopee Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame. He played football, basketball, and baseball at Comp.

"From all of the stories I've been told about my father growing up, he was a great athlete in high school," Joe said. "I always try my best to follow in his footsteps."

Another person who has been very supportive throughout Joe's high school and college athletic career is his mother, Sue.

"I just want to thank my parents for everything they've done for me," he said. "Nothing I've accomplished could've been done without them, it's something I'll never forget."

Granby High School currently doesn't have an Athletic Hall of Fame, but if they did have one, Joe Desormier would certainly be



Joe Desormier, a standout athlete at Granby, has lost out on the 2020-2021 season at Worcester State.

a leading candidate to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The Rams boys' varsity basketball team, which is coached by Tim Sheehan, advanced to the Western Mass. Division 4 semifinal game three times in the four years that Desormier was a member of the team.

In Desormier's final high school basketball game, the Rams lost a heartbreaker to Monson by one point in the semifinal game, which were held at the historic Curry Hicks Cage located on the UMass-Amherst campus.

"We lost three times in the Western Mass. semifinals and we could never get over the hump," Desormier said. "Losing those games was like getting stabbed in the back, especially in my senior year. We were the favorites to win the Division 4 title that year. We had a bunch of talented three-sport athletes and we had all of the pieces to win it all, but we just couldn't get the job done. It was great having the opportunity to play several basketball games at the Cage."

Desormier was also a four-year member of the Rams boys' soccer

See **DESORMIER**, page 17 •

### SOCCER

## Soccer changes affected approach to game

**TIM PETERSON**  
Sports Correspondent

REGION—The MIAA made several rule changes to the sport of soccer this past fall due to COVID-19.

It took a couple of matches for the players, coaches, and referees to get used to the new modified rules.

"It did take some time for the players to get used to the new rules. We're hoping to go back to soccer without modifications next year," said Monson girls' varsity soccer coach Eric Degnan. "The players deserve a lot of credit. You also have to give the referees a lot of credit as well. It wasn't very easy for them either."

Granby girls' varsity soccer coach Robert Weaver was happy his players had the opportunity to play some matches this fall.

"The girls were very happy just to be getting together, practicing and playing soccer while following the modifications," Weaver said. "At Granby, we had great backing from the school's administration, school committee, and health department."

One of the rule changes was the elimination of throw-ins. When the ball crossed the touchline, the restart was a kick-in, which was the same as an indirect kick. The ball was placed on the spot on the touchline where the ball went out of bounds or where it.

Ludlow boys' varsity soccer coach Greg Kolodziey really didn't mind the elimination of throw-ins.



FILE PHOTOS

ABOVE: Girls soccer adjusted to the modified rules of soccer, which included no throw-ins and goalies could not punt over the half line.



LEFT: Boys soccer had to do without head balls, a big part of the attack game.

"We have benefitted over the years from having a player who could throw it far," Kolodziey said. "You could create more scoring chances on more restarts with the kick-in."

There were also no head balls allowed.

"I think the rule change that affected the game the most was elimination of head balls. I've never seen so many well-executed shoulder balls in my life," Kolodziey added. "But there were a lot of good scoring chances missed by all the teams due to not being allowed to head the ball."

Players were not allowed to make intentional physical contact with an opposing player.

"We always stress the importance of not committing reckless and needless fouls," Kolodziey said. "If the health situation is under control, I do think all the modified rules will be changed back next season."

Goalkeepers weren't allowed to kick, punt dropkick, or throw the ball in the air beyond the midfield line.

If the ball did travel in the air beyond the midfield line without touching a player, the resulting restart was an indirect kick for the opposing team from the spot it crossed midfield. "I strongly disliked the rule where the goalie could not punt, or goal kick the ball over half," said Ware boys varsity soccer coach Jesse Trzpit. "To me, it didn't make a lot

See **SOCCER**, page 16 •

### WINTER SEASON

## Several unknowns for winter sports season

**GREGORY A. SCIBELLI**  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — In Western Massachusetts, winter sports are scheduled to begin in early January, but that is pending the creation of a new schedule and the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference forming geographic "bubble" leagues for basketball and hockey, as well as swimming.

In November, the PVIAC agreed to go ahead with winter sports, but made a number of rulings:

- Compete in a bubble that will limit contact with fewer athletes (schools).
- Start date for winter sports January 4, 2021 through February 20, 2021

- The scheduled amount of games will be: Team sports (Basketball, Swimming, Ice Hockey) 10-12 Skiing 5-6 contest

- No independent varsity contests, only those given by schedulers.

- Spectators for Indoor Games TBD.

- Out of season coaching: There will be no out of season coaching during the Winter Season

- Strongly recommend no captains practices.

With the recent rollout of a vaccine as well as a second one now in the pipeline that could accelerate the vaccination process, it is unclear if decisions made about fans will be revisited at some point.

Another decision that must be made is what schools will be participating in the winter season.

Changes that have already been made for the season include the addition of Southwick to the winter ranks. Southwick's school committee did not allow the school to participate in the fall season, but has agreed to support the winter season. Southwick has boys and girls basketball as well as ice hockey.

Belchertown, while it will allow swimming and basketball, hockey is not being allowed due to the fact the UMass practice rink, their home ice, is not available. Belchertown's school committee confirmed other options for Belchertown would be in communities that currently in the red status for being

See **SEASON**, page 16 •

SPORTS

T-Birds announce massive teddy bear donation

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds’ Foundation is pleased to announce a donation of over 1,000 teddy bears and stuffed animals to local charitable partners, the culmination of a successful Drive-Thru Teddy Bear Toss presented by Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, that was held on Saturday, Dec. 12 outside of the MassMutual Center in downtown Springfield.

This morning, the Thunderbirds’ mascot Boomer, along with staff members, made deliveries of hundreds of stuffed animals to Square One, Center for Human Development (CHD), Boys and Girls Club of Springfield, and the Boys & Girls Club, Family Center in Springfield.

“Our holiday celebrations are looking much different this year, but the Springfield Thunderbirds have proven that with a bit of creativity and careful planning, the children in our community can still experience the magic of the season,” says Kristine Allard, Vice President of Development & Communications, Square One. “We are so grateful to Nate Costa and the entire Thunderbirds community for keeping the tradition of the Teddy Bear Toss alive. Our children will be overjoyed!”

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Teddy Bear Toss event was much different than previous years. Instead of tossing the bears onto the ice after the first T-Birds first goal during a home game in December, fans brought their new teddy bears or stuffed animals down and ‘tossed’ them out of their vehicles as part of the Drive-Thru Teddy Bear Toss at the MassMutual Center on the corner of Main St. and Bruce Landon Way. Boomer, the Nicebox Icebox, and front office staff were present to collect donations and properly package and sanitize them. Those that couldn’t make it that day also donated at the Thunderbirds office, at Teddy Bear Pools & Spas in Chicopee, the Springfield Visitor Center, or at New Valley Bank’s new headquarters located in Monarch Place in downtown Springfield.

“The T-Birds and their loyal fans have again stepped up to bring holiday joy to children



Despite the pandemic conditions, the Springfield Thunderbirds still held its annual teddy bear drive.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Thunderbirds mascot tosses a teddy bear from a donor's car.

and families receiving services in CHD programs across western Massachusetts,” said Ben Craft, CHD’s Vice President of Community Engagement. “We deeply appreciate the Thunderbirds organization’s partnership and strong commitment to our community, and we can’t wait to get back to the arena to cheer them on when it’s safe to do so.”

The virtual and drive-thru version of the Teddy Bear Toss kicked off on #GivingTuesday,

the annual global movement that encourages people to do good and support nonprofits, encouraging fans that couldn’t physically attend the event to donate to the Thunderbirds’ Foundation and sponsor a bear. Over 250 bears were sponsored by local and national supporters of the Teddy Bear Toss through donations to the Thunderbirds’ Foundation, including a significant number donated by Balise Auto Group.

“We are amazed and grateful at

the outpouring of support for the Drive-Thru Teddy Bear Toss” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “Teddy Bear Toss is a staple event for the Thunderbirds, and our fans came out in full support. We can’t thank our fans, partners, and those that donated to our Foundation enough to be able to bring smiles to children at this time of year.”

The Thunderbirds extend a special thank you to all of their partners that stepped up and were able to make this event a reality, including: Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, Balise Auto Group, Western Mass News, the Springfield Business Improvement District & downtown Visitor’s Center, New Valley Bank & Trust and Dunkin’. The Thunderbirds also would like to thank their teddy bear delivery partner, BMW of West Springfield.

The Thunderbirds Teddy Bear Toss was established in 2016, whereby the Thunderbirds’ first goal in the annual Teddy Bear Toss game results in a celebration of bears being thrown onto the ice. Since starting the tradition four seasons ago, the Thunderbirds have contributed more than 10,000 bears to local Springfield charities.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The fall clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. There are two sessions available. sign up for one or both. It makes a great holiday gift for friends and family members.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session (\$130 for 2 sessions). Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players’ safety).

SESSION 1: MONDAYS 1/11, 1/25, 2/1, & 2/8  
Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.  
Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, & 3/15  
Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.  
Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

SOCCER • from page 15

of sense to begin with, I didn’t see how it benefitted anyone’s safety and it also took a large advantage away from our team. Our starting goalie consistently kicks the ball over half which gives us an opportunity to move the ball up field more so than other ways. Our backup goalie also has the ability to do this.”

All of the high school soccer matches were played in four ten-minute quarters instead of two twenty minutes halves.

A couple of the other rule changes were corner kicks were indirect kicks, no timeouts will be allowed, and there were no rebounds allowed on penalty kicks. Coaches, players and referees wore masks during the game.

Everyone is hoping to have a normal high school soccer season in the fall of 2021.

SEASON • from page 15

labeled “high-risk” for COVID-19 spread. Belchertown is one of the towns not allowed to play other schools that have the red designation.

Holyoke High School, which ceased its fall season on Oct. 21, is set to participate in the winter season with basketball and swimming, but can only do so if it gets out of the red by Dec. 24 and remains out of the red until the season starts in January. It is possible the school will start late.

Other changes and decisions are still pending, though many schools have

already opted to participate.

Pathfinder will participate in winter sports, but must find another venue due to the fact their gymnasium is currently being used as a cafeteria.

While the PVIAC has not made an official ruling on whether fans will be allowed in arenas, the MIAA’s current guidance is to allow up to 40 percent of a gymnasium’s capacity. However, the number of game participants (players, coaches, officials, etc.) count toward that 40 percent. Some schools, like the fall, could bar fans altogether in an effort to lower the spread while the current surge is still on.



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## SPORTS

# Claremont to host Granite Pro Stock Series

WALPOLE, N.H. -- Granite State Pro Stock Series officials announced on Thursday a 15-race schedule for the 2021 race season. The slate will bring drivers to three different New England states -- while visiting eight different tracks in one of the most complete schedules the series has ever offered for teams and fans.

The calendar is headlined by the annual Newport Chevrolet 150 at Claremont Motorsports Park, this time on Saturday, July 31 -- a \$10,000 to win show that is sure to draw the top Super Late Model talent in the region. The series will also make a debut at one of New England's most historic tracks and return to multiple staple facilities, with a mix of flat and banked tracks planned.

"We're thrilled with the way our schedule came together for the 2021 season," Mike Parks, president of the Granite State Pro Stock Series, said. "We always strive to get 14-16 races and we were able to accomplish it again. We think our competitors and fans will enjoy it."

The season starts with the big debut in Connecticut. Granite State teams will compete at Stafford Motor Speedway for the first time as part of the annual NAPA Spring Sizzler weekend on Saturday, April 24 -- a one-day show. Pro Stocks are no stranger to the Arute-owned facility -- having run as a weekly division for decades -- but now, the touring stars will invade to compete with some of the local talent that are sure to find themselves a ride.

"To say we are thrilled to finally bring the Granite State Pro Stock Series to Stafford would be an understatement," Parks said. "This will be the icing on the cake to kick-off the Greatest Race in the History of the Spring, the annual NAPA Spring Sizzler. It's going to be an amazing event for our series and the track both."

Following Stafford, just one week later, Monadnock Speedway will host their first of two series events on Sunday afternoon, May 2 as part of their season-opening Spring Dash weekend. Post-time for this event is 2 p.m., with the NHSTRA Modifieds, NELCAR Legends and more also on the card. A second stop at "Mad Dog" is slated for Saturday, September 4 as part of Labor Day weekend at the Winchester, New Hampshire, oval.

The series heads to Bobby Webber's Star Speedway for the first of two stops on Saturday night, May 8, before a return to the Star Classic weekend on Friday, September 17 comes in the thick of the championship battle. Last year, Derek Griffith and Joey Pole put together one of the best races in series history as part of the Classic at Star, which has become a staple track for the series.

Claremont Motorsports Park hosts their first of three dates on Memorial Day weekend as a Sunday evening special, May 30. Following the \$10,000 to win Newport Chevrolet 150 in July, an event won by Derek Griffith last year, the champion will be crowned at Claremont for the first time on October 16 as part of the track's Fall Challenge weekend.

Beech Ridge Motor Speedway in Maine will hold two Granite State events for the first time in track history -- with stops set for June 12 and August 14. Last year, the series hosted more than 30 cars as a mix of regulars and track favorites competed for glory in the inaugural stop at Beech Ridge -- a race won by Wyatt Alexander.

"We had so much success with our first appearance at Beech Ridge last year, the car count was fantastic and Andy and the staff there welcomed us and our teams for a great event," Parks said. "Going there twice should give us much of the same we saw in 2020."

Additional summer events include the annual stop at Riverside Speedway in Groveton, New Hampshire, on June 19 and the Sunday afternoon spectacular at Hudson Speedway on Sunday, July 11. Granite State teams will also stop at Lee USA Speedway twice -- both at some of the track's most historic race weekends. The first comes on Friday, July 2, celebrating Independence Day -- and the second will be on Sunday, October 3 as part of the season-ending Octoberfest.

There is one event that remains outstanding on the series schedule -- dated for Saturday, July 24 -- which is on track to be announced soon. Series officials are working on the final details surrounding that event and will announce once available.

See **RACES**, page 15 •

## DESORMIER • from page 15

and baseball teams.

"I decided to play basketball in college because it's fast paced and the excitement level can get so high," he said. "There is never a dull moment during a game, which is why I love playing basketball so much."

One of the reasons why Desormier choose to attend Worcester State is the state-of-the-art Wellness Center, which opened in 2016.

"There probably isn't another gym in Division 3 or even Division 2 that's as nice as the Wellness Center," Desormier said. "It's a beautiful place. There is seating on all four sides of the court. The place is always clean and the lighting is perfect. I'm hoping more basketball players from Granby and Western Mass. attend Worcester State and play basketball here in the future."

The Lancers men's basketball team has been steadily making the climb up the mountain since Desormier first arrived at the Chandler Street campus in the fall of 2017.

"We went 3-22 when I was a freshman, so that was a rebuilding year for us," he said. "We then took a big step forward the following season. We lost at Fitchburg St. in the conference quarterfinals. We advanced to the conference finals last year and we were really looking forward to this season."

As a freshman, Desormier had twelve assists in a home game against Bridgewater St., which broke the program's all-time record.

Following Desormier's freshman season, Tyler Hundley replaced Dave Lindberg as

the Lancers head coach. Lindberg had been the Lancers head coach for 24 seasons.

"When you're recruited by one coach and he's replaced by another coach, it's never a very good feeling," Desormier said. "Coach Hundley did call every player on the team and he let us know what his plan was for the program. I really didn't think about transferring at that time because I had become close with my teammates. We also wanted to help turn the program around."

Desormier, who played in a total of 78 collegiate basketball games, helped the Lancers win 11 games as a sophomore. They posted a 15-12 overall record and had a 10-2 conference record a year ago.

In what turned out to be Desormier's final collegiate basketball game, the Lancers lost at Westfield St., 81-77, in the MASCAC finals last February.

"It was definitely surreal," Desormier said. "I had a lot of people there cheering for me and it felt like a home game to me. It was a lot of fun playing in that environment."

The Lancers did beat the Owls, 84-81, at home in the first meeting of the regular season.

"Westfield is one of our rivals and that game came right down to the wire," Desormier said. "We hit a half-court shot to seal the deal."

Desormier's final collegiate victory was a 96-72 at home against MCLA in the conference semifinals.

Desormier, who's an avid golfer, might try-out for the Worcester St. golf team if they do have a season next spring.

It would be a nice way to for him to end his collegiate athletic career.

## SPORTS

### Sandra Black

BELCHERTOWN -Sandra E. (Campbell) Black, 79, passed away Dec. 13, 2020 with her family by her side. She was born on Jan. 28, 1941 in Springfield, to Nelson and Margaret Campbell.

Sandy has lived in Belchertown for the past 15 years and previously resided in Granby. Sandy and her husband Robert loved to travel in their Fifth Wheel on vacations to Florida. She also enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, playing horseshoes and was an animal lover; especially horses.

She will be deeply missed by her husband of 62 years, Robert Black of Belchertown and three children, Kim Williams (Jim) of Belchertown, Peggy Colon (Angel) of Granby and David Black (Hauwa) of Florida.

She will also be missed by four grandchildren, Ashley, David, Jr of FL, Colby (Jen) and Jill (Adam) of Granby and four great-grandchildren, Aiden, Emerson, Layne and Kiera. Besides her parents she was predeceased by her daughter, Lori Black in 2011.

All service are private and Beers & Story Funeral Home in Belchertown was entrusted with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her memory to Belchertown Animal Relief Committee PO Box 161 Belchertown, MA 01007.

For more information, please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)



### Daniel R. Greeley



BELCHERTOWN -- Daniel R. Greeley, 71, of Belchertown, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020 at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was a true warrior and battled colon cancer for three years.

He was born in Auburn, NY on Dec. 5, 1949, the son of the late Joseph and Virginia (Ceratt) Greeley. He is survived by his best friend/devoted caretaker/wife of 30 years, Carol, and his seven children; Kristina Willis and her husband, David; Rebecca Ballinger and her husband, Garrett; David Greeley and his wife, Aimee; Sara Greeley and her partner, Prudence Doty; Ryan Greeley and his wife, Nicole; Tyler Greeley and his fiancé, Zachary Kinsley; Travis Greeley and his wife, Lauren; and his eight grandchildren: Michelle, Brianna, Nicholas, Hudson, Maverick, Raffael, Mikaila, and Tessa. In addition, Dan leaves behind his sisters Karen Schutt and her husband, Bill; Deborah Paul and her husband, Steve, and several nieces and nephews all of whom he loved dearly.

Dan graduated from Jordan-Elbridge High School in 1967. He was a US Navy submarine veteran who, as he would say, was a "deep-diving, death-defying submariner." He had a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and was a retired (2014) Chief Technology Officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Dan recently received his 10-year pin as a Scentsy Independent Consultant. He was a volunteer, fundraiser, team captain and Event Leadership Team member at American Cancer Society (ACS) Quaboag Valley Relay for Life.

Dan was a very social person and active on social media. He used this platform to keep in contact with friends and family, to promote awareness for his ACS relay for life team, and to work his beloved Scentsy business. To quote his Facebook page, he was "just a guy trying to do good and to make a positive difference in someone's life, at least 'his' kids." The overwhelming responses and outpouring of love and stories since his passing has proven that he has in fact made that difference in many lives.

After Dan was diagnosed with stage III colon cancer, he made it his mission to bring awareness to the importance of getting early screening. Every video he posted on social media or bid he made for donations to his Relay for Life Team with the Quaboag Valley Relay for Life, ended with, "Get screened, early detection saves lives!" This year, Dan was awarded the Sandra C. Labaree Volunteer Values award from the American Cancer Society for his astounding dedication, fundraising, and volunteer efforts.

Services to celebrate Dan's life will be held at a later date at his home in Belchertown. He will then be laid to rest, with full military honors, at The New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscaawen, NH alongside his parents.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to Dan's Relay for Life team at: <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/DanGreeleyTeam>.

Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home entrusted with Daniel's care. For more information or to leave a memory, please visit [www.beersandstory.com](http://www.beersandstory.com)



## DEATH NOTICE:

**Sandra E. (Campbell) Black**  
Died Dec. 13, 2020  
Services are private

**Daniel R. Greeley**  
Died Dec. 16, 2020  
Services to be held at later date

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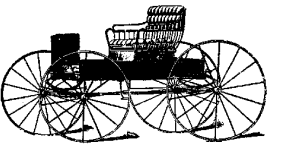
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Find a good home or adopt your next pet here!

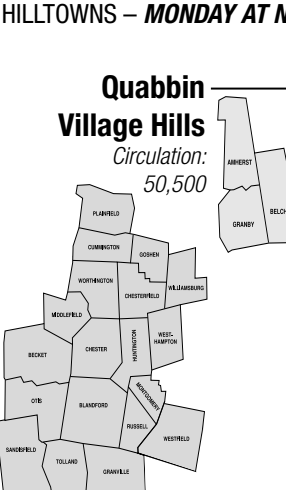
**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

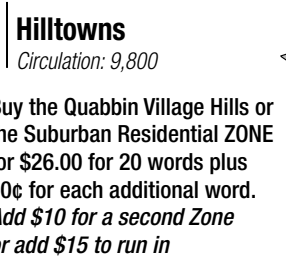
**MAIL TO:** Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 **DEADLINES:** QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON** HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

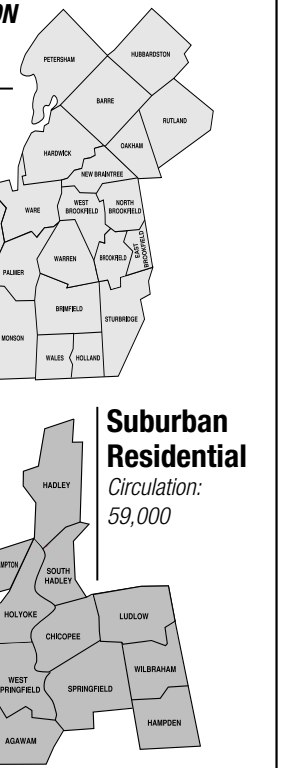
**CATEGORY:**

|                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     |
| 5                     | 6                     | 7                     | 8                     |
| 9                     | 10                    | 11                    | 12                    |
| 13                    | 14                    | 15                    | 16                    |
| 17                    | 18                    | 19                    | 20 Base Price \$26.00 |
| 21 Base Price \$26.50 | 22 Base Price \$27.00 | 23 Base Price \$27.50 | 24 Base Price \$28.00 |
| 25 Base Price \$28.50 | 26 Base Price \$29.00 | 27 Base Price \$29.50 | 28 Base Price \$30.00 |
| 29 Base Price \$30.50 | 30 Base Price \$31.00 | 31 Base Price \$31.50 | 32 Base Price \$32.00 |
| 33 Base Price \$32.50 | 34 Base Price \$33.00 | 35 Base Price \$33.50 | 36 Base Price \$34.00 |
| 37 Base Price \$34.50 | 38 Base Price \$35.00 | 39 Base Price \$35.50 | 40 Base Price \$36.00 |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
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**TOWN OF PALMER TRUCK DRIVER LABORER - OPERATIONS DIVISION PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.** The Town of Palmer is accepting applications for Full Time Truck Driver - Laborer in the Department of Public Works Operations Division. We are seeking an experienced, self-motivated individual with public works knowledge to become part of our operations division. A High School Diploma, Class B Massachusetts Driver's License with air-brakes endorsement is required. A Massachusetts Hoister's License is favorable. This is a union position with an attractive starting salary, vacation, sick and personal time. Please forward resume to 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email [rncnutt@townofpalmer.com](mailto:rncnutt@townofpalmer.com)

## HELP WANTED

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM** Animal Control Officer & Animal Inspector. Looking for a reliable Animal Control Officer & an Animal Inspector. For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Open Until Filled. EOE

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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**WARM WEATHER IS** Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: [carolaction@aol.com](mailto:carolaction@aol.com) for more information.

## FOR RENT

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

# TOP 10 Photos

BY MELINA BOURDEAU

The adage, "A picture is worth 1,000 words" certainly rings true in photojournalism. Photographs can often tell a story better than the words printed next to it and draw a reader in. These are 10 photographs which captured both newsworthy and historic moments in the lives of people in the community in 2020.

See more photos on page 20.

COURTESY PHOTO

On Saturday, Aug. 15, piper Todd Carpenter played "When the Battle's O'er" at the site of the first bomber crash in Granby in 1944.



Seating was available from a distance with aggressive air exchange inside the Belchertown High School gym on Saturday, June 27, 2020.

## RACES • from page 15

The Granite State Pro Stock Series will have further updates surrounding the 2021 season when available. For more information, visit [gspss.net](http://gspss.net) and follow the series on social media.

**2021 GRANITE STATE PRO STOCK SERIES SCHEDULE:**  
April 24 – Stafford Motor Speedway – Stafford, Conn. -- 75 laps  
May 2 – Monadnock Speedway -- Winchester, N.H. -- 100 laps  
May 8 -- Star Speedway -- Epping,

N.H. -- 100 laps  
May 30 – Claremont Speedway -- Claremont, N.H. -- 100 laps  
June 12 – Beech Ridge Motor Speedway -- Scarborough, Maine -- 150 laps  
June 19 – Riverside Speedway -- Groveton, N.H. -- 150 laps  
July 2 – Lee USA Speedway -- Lee, N.H. -- 100 laps  
July 11 – Hudson International Speedway -- Hudson, N.H. -- 100 laps  
July 24 -- TBA  
July 31 – \$10k to Win -- Claremont Motorsports Park -- Claremont, N.H.

-- 100 laps  
August 14 – Beech Ridge Motor Speedway -- Scarborough, Maine -- 150 laps  
September 4 – Monadnock Speedway -- Winchester, N.H. -- 100 laps  
September 17 – Star Speedway -- Epping, N.H. -- 100 laps  
October 3 -- Lee USA Speedway -- Lee, N.H. -- 100 laps  
October 16 – Claremont Motorsports Park -- Claremont, N.H. -- 100 laps

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**  
SNOW'S SELF STORAGE LLC, will sell at Public Auction at 746 Bay Road, Belchertown, MA, all the personal property stored in its facility by:

SP34: Evan Stangl  
SP4: Changrui Xin  
SP29: Changrui Xin  
At 10:00 a.m., January 16, 2021, at the premises of SNOW'S SELF STORAGE LLC, 746 Bay Road, Belchertown, MA, by Warren Schreiber, Auctioneer, as Agent for Snow's Self Storage, LLC.

**Snow's Self-Storage reserves the following rights: to bid at the public auction, to refuse any and all bids, or to cancel the auction at any time for any reason.**  
12/24, 12/31/2020

**Public Hearing Special Permit Legal Notice Belchertown Planning Board**

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Section 11, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss a Site Plan Approval application for a non-profit residential education center, submitted by The Cutchins Program for Children and Families, 52 Old Bay Road, Map 229, Lots 17 and 16.1, Belchertown, MA, Owner- The Wayne A. Lebrun Living Trust.

A public hearing will be held as follows:  
Place: Remotely by Planning Board, Belchertown  
Date: January 26, 2021  
Time: 7:05 pm  
Please join my meeting

from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/571586205>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (646) 749-3122

Access Code: 571-586-205

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The application is available for inspection on the Belchertown.org- Planning Board website.

James Natle  
Chairman, Planning Board  
12/24, 12/31/2020

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



(Left to right) Zelia Almeida, RN-C and Patricia Milardo, RT work in the Pediatric ICU at Baystate in Springfield, recommend that people be safe during the COVID-19 outbreak on March 23, 2020.



Gene McSweeney, a Warner Road resident sent a photo of snowman who has been practicing social distancing on April 20, 2020. "I hope that you might find it amusing," McSweeney wrote. "We need amusement these days."



Anne and Jeremy Leblond with sons Samuel and Nathan Leblond waved at residents of Christopher Heights in a car parade on March 31, 2020.

PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU

# TOP 10 Photos



First place winners of the Belchertown thrill tour were Tyler and Pam Bergeron at Mead's Corner Farm with a display of skeletons on Nov. 2, 2020.



Jack-o-lanterns donated for the Belchertown Public Schools pumpkin patch were donated to Ruby Ranch following the event on Oct. 30, 2020.

PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU



The crowd at the vigil for George Floyd gave a standing ovation to Enyonam Adoboe after her speech. The vigil was hosted by the Belchertown Justice Collaborative on June 25, 2020.



Belchertown High School graduate Elisha Wenc gets her tassel adjusted by her mother Carrie Forrant. The two, and Ken Wenc, took a photo together on Monday, July 20 during Belchertown High School's presentation of diplomas.

PHOTO BY MELINA BOURDEAU



(From left to right) Brothers Keagan, Declan and Connor Szczepanek fish from a rock at one of the ponds at Pine Valley Plantation on June 20, 2020.



Along with Belchertown Cultural Council volunteers and Belchertown Community Television managers, the Winter Light Night went virtual this year on Nov. 28.